GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1573
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016
Higher Education for Disabled Persons
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that according to Census 2011, there were 2.68 crore persons with disabilities in India who constituted 2.22 per cent of the total population, however, only 0.56 per cent of students with disabilities are pursuing higher education in the country;

(b) whether schemes/scholarships have been introduced by the Government to integrate persons with disabilities into the higher education system; and

(c) if so, the details and achievements thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI KRISHANPAL GUJJAR)

(a) As per Census 2011, there were 2.68 crore Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) in India which constitute 2.21 per cent of the total population. Out of 2.68 crore Divyangjans, the number of Divyangjan having qualification of graduation and above is 12.50 lakh.
(b) and (c) For the sake of empowerment of persons with disabilities through higher education, this Department is implementing the following five schemes for Students with Disabilities (SwDs) for higher education:-
(i) Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for class XI to post graduation (launched in 2014-15);

(ii) Scholarship for Top Class Education for post graduation courses in the institutes of excellence as notified in the scheme (launched in 2015-16);

(iii)National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities (NFPwD) for pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D. courses in India (launched in 2012-13;

(iv) National Overseas Scholarship for Students with Disabilities for pursuing Masters' Degree and Ph.D. courses in abroad (launched in 2014-15); and

(v) Scholarship under Trust Fund for pursuing professional or technical courses from recognized institutes (launched in 2011-12).

A statement indicating details and achievements under these schemes is enclosed at Annexure.